

cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers' Welfare Scheme and Handloom Export Scheme. Further more, new schemes of Integrated Handloom Cluster Development (IHCD), Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and Health Insurance Scheme have been launched in the year 2005-06 while Handloom Mark and Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme have been launched in the year 2006-07.

(c) To ascertain the requirement of the handloom sector in an accurate manner and for formulation of more useful and effective schemes for the benefit of weavers, the first census on Handloom Sector was conducted during the year 1987-88 and second census was conducted in the year 1995-96 which aimed to generated statistically appropriate data bases for assessing the impact and progress in the sector by collecting the information on various developmental indicators particularly socio-economic profile of weaver households, distribution of weaver units and weavers, details about type of looms, yarn consumption and fabric production. The target population of the census was the total weaving households/weavers in the country. Proposal to conduct a fresh census for handloom sector throughout the country is under consideration.

Repeal of JPM Act

2407. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to repeal the JPM Act, 1987 now that sufficiently long time has passed for the jute industry to adjust in the market; and

(b) whether Government are aware that import of the jute bags is increasing after the decision taken by Government to reserve 100 per cent of foodgrains and sugar to be packed in jute packing material, in case of shortage of jute bags in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to repeal the JPM Act, 1987.

(b) The order issued under the JPM Act, 1987 prescribes the percentage of total production of commodity or class of commodities required to be packed

in jute packaging material manufactured in India from raw jute, produced in India. Hence the question of increase in import of jute bags due to 100% compulsory packaging does not arise.

Textile material for BPL persons

2408. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have a scheme to provide textile material for daily use to the persons below poverty line;
- (b) if so, essential features of the scheme; and
- (c) if not, whether Government propose to consider such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) No such proposal is being considered by the Government.

Import/export of silk

2409. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of silk exported/imported from/in the country during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the names of the countries from where imported and the countries where exported; and
- (c) the foreign exchange amount earned/spent, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Year-wise export and import of raw silk during the last three years is as follows: